

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| In re Patent Application of |) | |
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| Shino MATSUBARA |) | Group Art Unit: Unassigned |
| |) | |
| Application No.: Unassigned |) | Examiner: Unassigned |
| |) | |
| Filed: September 23, 2003 |) | Confirmation No.: Unassigned |
| |) | |
| For: LAYOUT DESIGN APPARATUS |) | |

**FIRST
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby submits the following information in conformance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of the cited document is enclosed.

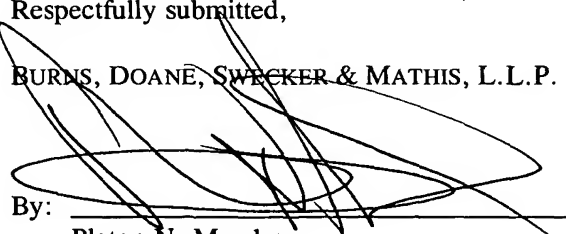
The document is being submitted within three (3) months of the filing or entry of the national stage of this application or before the first Office Action on the merits, whichever is later. Since document is being filed within the time period set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b) no fee or statement is required.

To assist the Examiner, the document is listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner-initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: September 23, 2003

By: 
Platon N. Mandros
Registration No. 22,124

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

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| Substitute for forms 1449A/PTO & 1449B/PTO | ATTORNEY'S DKT NO. 027260-672 | APPLICATION NO. Unassigned |
| | APPLICANT Shino MATSUBARA | |
| | FILING DATE September 23, 2003 | GROUP Unassigned |
| | FIRST INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT | |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--|---|
| Examiner Initials | Document Number | Kind Code (if known) | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Issue/Publication Date (MM-DD-YYYY) |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Examiner Initials | Document Number | Kind Code (if known) | Country | Date of Publication (MM-DD-YYYY) | Translation Yes No |
| | 2000-82093 | | Japan | 03-21-2000 | Abst |
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| NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Examiner Initials | Include name of author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. |
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| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | |
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. § 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. **SEND TO:** Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231: